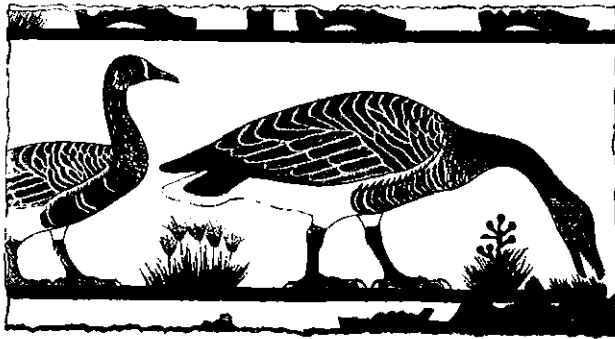


NOME OF THEBES - 1

■ Introduction

Ancient Egyptians lived along a very narrow band of land that was made fertile by the Nile River's yearly flooding. They called this land KMT (**kemet**, or the Black Land, for the dark color of its earth). All else was DSHRT (**deshret**, or the Red Land, for its red sands and scorching heat). Another name for ancient Egypt is **Tamera**, "the land of the inundation."



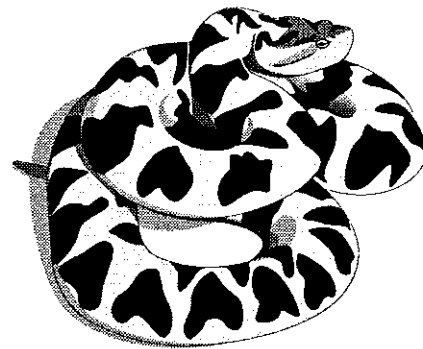
From earliest times Ancient Egyptians unified neighboring villages into districts called **hesep**, or in Greek, **nome**. Each nome had its own government, capital city, protective god or gods, and temple. The nomes had carefully marked boundaries with records kept of their amount of farm land and their canals with all their branches. Each nome had a standard, a portable sign that included an image of the nome deity or a symbol of religious power.

■ About the nome

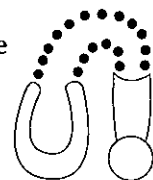
- You are a member of the nome of Thebes, originally called Waset, the nome of the Southern Shield, the fourth nome of upper Egypt. Its capital city was Waset, better known by its Greek name of Thebes, a name given to the entire nome.
- According to the hymn to Amon, Thebes had "come into being before all others." Thebans were the first men, those who had begun all the other cities. Memphis citizens disagreed with this claim, believing they were the first city because Menes, the legendary king who first ruled both Upper and Lower Egypt, founded their city.
- Thebes was a busy, crowded city, the largest city of the New Kingdom. Covering about three square miles on both sides of the Nile, the eastern side was for the living and the western side for the dead. On the east bank was the enormous temple of Luxor and the town of Karnak. On the western side was the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, and the Colossi of Memnon.

■ Gods of Thebes

- Thebes had a triad of gods consisting of Amon, the goddess Mut, and their son Khons.
- Amon's animal manifestations were the Nile goose, the ram and sometimes the snake. He was also considered "the hidden one," a god of the wind, "the breath of life for everyone."



- Because the color blue represents the sky, lapis lazuli, a beautiful blue stone often used in jewelry and inlay work, was sacred to Amon.
- In the New Kingdom, Amon was the supreme state god. Associated with the sun, he became Amon-Ra: "He who abides in all things," the ba or soul of everything.
- The obelisk **tekhen** was a symbol of Amon, as the first rays of the sun were thought to have hit a "ben-ben," a rock roughly in the shape of an obelisk.
- Mut was viewed as the eye of Ra. She was often depicted wearing the crown of Upper Egypt. The vulture was Mut's sacred animal.
- Khons was associated with the moon, a runner who traveled the skies. "The Lord of Truth and the Maker of Destiny," he was considered to have authority over evil spirits. He was depicted as a mummified young man, shaven except for the sidelock of hair worn by the young, wearing the menat, the lunar disk, and crescent.

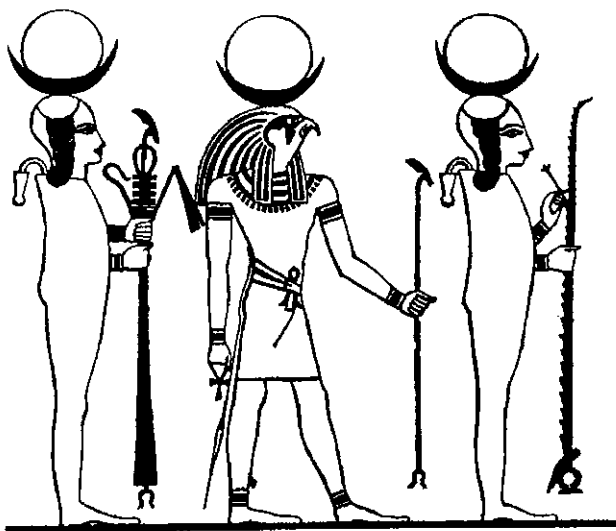


NOME OF THEBES - 2

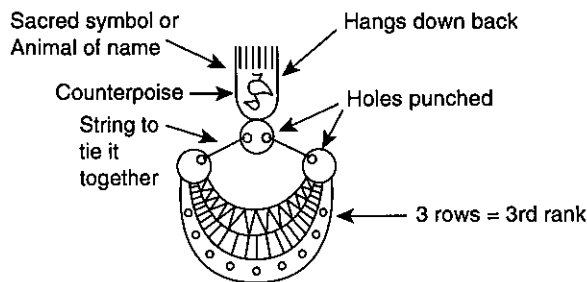
■ General Rules for Egyptians

As an **Egyptian**, you must preserve "**Maat**," an important ethical concept that combines "order, truth, justice, and righteousness."

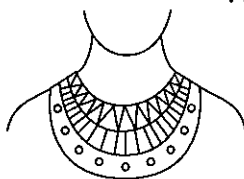
1. Keep your nome area neat and organize all your efforts.
2. Be honest in all you say, and do not claim others' work as your own.
3. Be fair and listen carefully to fellow Egyptians. The Instruction of Amenemopet says: "Give your ears to hear what is said. Give your heart to understand what is said."
4. Be a committed member of "the Land of the Nile."



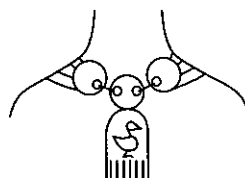
Khons



**Menat
Necklace**



Front View



Back View

■ Rules for Thebans

1. As a **Theban**, work hard to be first, working for the benefit of all, but finding joy in your work. Egyptians enjoyed life as children and adults. In fact they enjoyed it so much that their idea of an afterlife, for those who were good in this one, was an eternity of life just like the one they were living before they died.
2. Thebans were master craftsmen who honored those who ruled them. They created colossal masterpieces and beautiful temple paintings showing their ruler's face throughout eternity. You will want to inscribe your teacher's and principal's visage and name on many of your finest works so your ruler will be known forever.
3. Record the achievements of Thebans and your ruler on obelisks whenever possible.
4. In your designs include the Nile goose, the ram, and the vulture.
5. Color your works with the sacred blue above all.

As a result, the **Maat** will be maintained and Amon-Ra will shine benevolently upon your nome, and you will travel far from the beginning to new understanding of "the Land of the Nile."

■ Nome Assignment:

1. Create a **nome standard**, including the number of your nome. Use the symbols and colors of your nome deity.
2. Decide who is to be the **noble of your nome** (first rank); the **administrator** (second rank); the **scribe** (third rank); the **artisan** (fourth rank). The rest of the members of your nome will be the **laborers** or **farmers** (fifth rank).
3. Each member of the nome is to make a **menat** showing rank by the number of rows: first rank (the noble)—five rows; second rank (the administrator)—four rows; third rank (the scribe)—three rows; fourth rank (the artisan)—two rows; and fifth rank (the laborer or farmer)—one row.
4. The **menat** should use the distinctive colors and/or symbols of your nome.
5. Make a **headband** for each member of your nome, using either an uraeus representing Wedjat or a vulture representing Nekhbet. Nomes in Lower Egypt need to make an uraeus with a cobra; nomes in Upper Egypt need to make a nekhbet with a vulture.